

Public Law 102-258
102d Congress

An Act

Mar. 19, 1992
[S. 996]

To authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to terminate a reservation of use and occupancy at the Buffalo National River; and for other purposes.

Harold Hedges.
Margaret
Hedges.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) in 1979 Harold and Margaret Hedges conveyed approximately 711 acres, including a homesite, to the National Park Service for addition to the Buffalo National River;

(2) Mr. and Mrs. Hedges retained a reservation of use and occupancy for a term of twenty-five years for use of their home and approximately forty-two acres of adjacent land;

(3) on January 1, 1991, the house was destroyed by fire, apparently caused by arson;

(4) Mr. and Mrs. Hedges are now unable to use the remaining term of their use and occupancy reservation, without incurring extraordinary costs and expenses; and

(5) the most equitable resolution is to provide for the termination of their use and occupancy reservation, with an appropriate refund of the unused portion of the value of the reservation.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act, the term—

(1) “reservation” or “reservation of use and occupancy” means the reservation of use and occupancy retained by Harold and Margaret Hedges, pursuant to Buffalo National River Deed 922, including tracts 66-104, 66-111, and 66-112, executed on October 25, 1979, and valued at \$19,148;

(2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior; and

(3) “unused term” means the period of time between January 1, 1991, and October 25, 2004, inclusive.

SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF RESERVATION OF USE AND OCCUPANCY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon application by Harold and Margaret Hedges of Harrison, Arkansas, the Secretary is authorized and directed to terminate the reservation of use and occupancy at the Buffalo National River described in section 2.

(b) **REFUND.**—Upon termination of such reservation, the Secretary shall, notwithstanding any other provision of law, refund the value of the unused term of such reservation, determined on a pro rata basis.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved March 19, 1992.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 996:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 102-448 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 102-120 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 137 (1991): July 31, considered and passed Senate.

Vol. 138 (1992): Mar. 3, considered and passed House.